



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Great Plains Region

Montana Area Office

P.O. Box 30137

Billings, Montana 59107-0137



IN REPLY REFER TO: MT-450

March 17, 2015

FAXOGRAM: Water Order Change

To: Chief, Power Supply and Billing Division, WAPA, Watertown, South Dakota
Attention: F-6300
Chief, Power Dispatching Branch, WAPA, Loveland, Colorado
Attention: J-4120
Facilities Manager, Helena, Montana
Attention: MT-800, MT-810, MT-831
Project Manager, Mills, Wyoming
Attention: WY-4000, WY-4100, WY-6400
Northwestern Energy, Butte, Montana
Attention: Resource Coordinator, Deb Mallowney

From: Reservoir and River Operations, Billings, Montana /S/ Stephanie Micek

Subject: **Canyon Ferry Water Release Order - CFR No. 15-13**

CURRENT RESERVOIR CONDITIONS:

Elevation: 3784.95; Storage: 1,505,224 acre-feet; River Release: 4,300 cfs; Inflow: 4,150 cfs;

GENERAL COMMENTS:

The April through July runoff forecast is declining as the snowpack above Canyon Ferry Reservoir is currently at 79% of average. In close coordination with Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, Canyon Ferry Reservoir releases will be reduced to rates that will maintain flows no lower than 4,100 cfs below Holter Dam to better assure filling Canyon Ferry this spring. Also, turbine releases are restricted and limited to a 2-unit capacity through April 2nd. In response, the following operation changes are required at Canyon Ferry Dam and Powerplant.

CANYON FERRY RELEASES AND OPERATIONS: Times are Mountain Standard Time (MST)

At 0700 hour on Thursday, March 19, 2015:

*Reduce releases through the river outlet gates to 400 cfs.
Maintain releases through the spillway gates at 0 cfs.
Maintain turbine release at $\approx 3,700$ cfs (≈ 36 MW-Hr/hr using 100.6 cfs/mw).
Maintain release for Helena Valley Project at 0 cfs.
Decrease release to the Missouri River to 4,100 cfs.
Decrease total release from Canyon Ferry to 4,100 cfs*

At 0700 hour on Friday, March 20, 2015:

*Reduce releases through the river outlet gates to 200 cfs.
Maintain releases through the spillway gates at 0 cfs.
Maintain turbine release at $\approx 3,700$ cfs (≈ 36 MW-Hr/hr using 100.6 cfs/mw).
Maintain release for Helena Valley Project at 0 cfs.
Decrease release to the Missouri River to 3,900 cfs.
Decrease total release from Canyon Ferry to 3,900 cfs*